

Granite City Press

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EPA reconsidering lead

By Bob Slate
Staff writer

Federal environmental officials are rethinking their plan to clean up the contaminated NL Industries Taracorp Superfund site in Granite City, Madison, Eagle Park and Venice.

On Friday, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will officially open a public comment period on a proposed cleanup plan and feasibility study. The comment period will continue through March 20.

The EPA says that based on new information, it may alter its original cleanup plan, which was established in its 1990 Record of Decision, the official document justifying and detailing the proposal.

The NL Industries Taracorp site formerly contained a lead smelting facility. The U.S. EPA contends that leftover lead dust, slag and a 91,000-cubic-yard lead waste pile pose a threat to the environment and human health.

A public hearing on the proposed plan will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, March 6, at the Granite

City Township Hall, 2060 Del

Residents may also submit mailing them to: Susan Involvement Coordinator, O (P-19J), U.S. EPA Region Boulevard, Chicago, IL 606 must be postmarked by Mar

The EPA has divided the concern: the main industrial areas at the former lead Street and Cleveland Boulevard areas — about 1,600

'Clean merfs' plan fails to get board's support

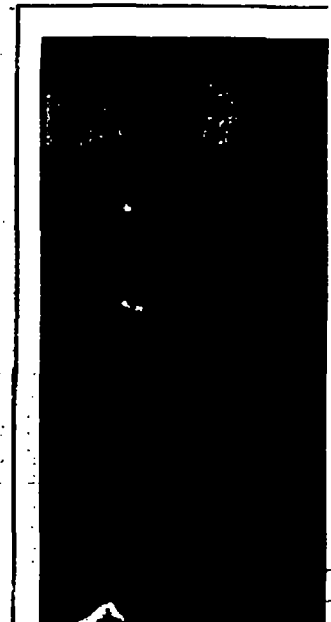
By Scott Wuerz
Staff writer

The Madison County Environmental Committee didn't get the vote of confidence it sought this week.

Madison County Board members voted Wednesday to delay for 30 days a decision that pits "clean merfs" against "dirty merfs" in the battle to reduce the amount of garbage deposited

"At this point I think another 30 days to digest and think about all the information we've taken in over the last few days would be in the best interests of the County Board."

— Rudy Papa
Board member



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A public hearing on the proposed plan will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, March 6, at the Granite

City Township Hall, 2080 Delmar Avenue.

Residents may also submit written comments by mailing them to: Susan Pastor, Community Involvement Coordinator, Office of Public Affairs (P-19J), U.S. EPA Region V, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60604. Written comments must be postmarked by March 20.

The EPA has divided the site into three areas of concern: the main industrial area — about 30 acres at the former lead smelter site near 16th Street and Cleveland Boulevard; adjacent residential areas — about 1,600 residences in Granite

City, Madison and Venice with high levels of soil contamination; and remote fill areas in Venice Township, North Granite, Granite City and Glen Carbon.

A public comment period on the proposed remedy for the residential area recently ended. EPA has issued no revised plan for that area yet.

The comment period that begins tomorrow has to do with the main industrial area (the pile), remote fill areas and groundwater.

NL Industries — one of several companies identified in the EPA report.

(See EPA, Page 2A)

County Board's plan fails to gain support

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held the special meeting Feb. 9. On Wednesday, Environmental

Dragnet T.V. program used to say, "Just the facts, ma'am."